

17. (Amended)

An ultrasonic treatment apparatus comprising:

an ultrasonic probe having an ultrasonic tip;

an aspiration sheath surrounding at least a portion of a length of the ultrasonic probe, the aspiration sheath forming at a distal end an aspiration port, the aspiration sheath being movable axially relative to the ultrasonic probe; and

an at least one aspiration channel recessed along the length of an outer surface of the ultrasonic probe, wherein aspiration occurs through the at least one aspiration channel along the length of the ultrasonic probe.

49. (Amended)

An ultrasonic treatment apparatus comprising:

an ultrasonic probe having an ultrasonic tip, the ultrasonic probe including an at least one channel recessed along a length of an outer surface of the ultrasonic probe, the at least one channel extending from a proximal end of the ultrasonic probe to a location adjacent the ultrasonic tip,

wherein aspiration occurs through the at least one channel along the length of the ultrasonic probe.

61. (Amended)

An ultrasonic probe comprising:

an elongate shaft having a longitudinal axis with a recessed portion bounded at one end with a planar surface; and

an at least one aspiration channel recessed along an outer surface of the longitudinal axis of the elongate shaft, wherein aspiration occurs through the at least one aspiration channel along the longitudinal axis of the elongate shaft.

63. (Amended)

An ultrasonic medical device comprising:

a probe having a distal end, a proximal end and an axial length therebetween;

a diameter of the probe that is tapered from the proximal end of the probe to the distal end of the probe; and

an at least one aspiration channel recessed along an outer surface of the axial length of the probe,

wherein the probe can support a transverse ultrasonic vibration along at least a portion of the axial length of the probe.

73. (Amended)

A medical device comprising:

a flexible probe having a distal end, a proximal end and an axial length therebetween;

a probe tip extending from the distal end of the probe; and

an at least one aspiration channel recessed along an outer surface of the axial length of the flexible probe,

wherein the flexible probe is capable of flexing to support a transverse ultrasonic vibration along at least a portion of the axial length of the flexible probe.

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on December 18, 2002, in which claims 17-28 and 49-62 were rejected and claims 1-16 and 29-48 were withdrawn from consideration. With this Amendment, claims 17, 49, 61, 63 and 73 are amended. As such, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of pending claims 17-28, 49-62 and new claims 63-82.